PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

BULLETIN] APRIL 27, 1941 [No. 41

LECTURE XLI.

ABYSSINIA.

"CAN the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard its spots?" How deep is the import to-day of the familiar reference to the essential unchangeableness, the innate conservatism and the incurable obscurantism of ETHIOPIA, ordinarily known as ABYSSINIA.

An interesting country this, with an intriguing history. Situated amongst the mountains and the ravines of the north-eastern corner of the "Dark Continent", with its out-of-date culture, its partially developed resources, its black-skinned people, its medieval-looking monarch, its illiteracy and slavery, it has remained practically *terra incognita* to the outside world until comparatively recent times, though within the last few years it has once again become the world's front page news. Consequently some account of this little-known kingdom which formed a part of the old Ethiopian Empire, may perhaps be of some use to the ordinary reader and the man in the street.

Modern ABYSSINIA, about a third of which forms the more modern SOMALILANDS is 350,000 square miles in area, about the size of the BRITISH ISLES and FRANCE combined. The major part of it is mountainous; but between the mountain regions and the coastal

territories of ERITREA and the SOMALILANDS, there are extensive patches of sandy and mud plains. Numerous rivers and streams have cut deep ravines and gorges through the country, so that the whole region appears rugged and fierce. The mountains are covered with dense forests and grasslands, while in the valleys, vegetation and marketable products vary at different elevations, and include wheat, barley, oilseeds, rubber, cotton, sugar-cane, bananas, tea, quinine, tobacco, castor-oil, olives, tomatoes, cabbages and grapes. Coffee, which derives its name from the region of KAFFA in ABYSSINIA, also grows wild and in plenty. Little does the average South Indian know that his daily morning favourite beverage—the cup that cheers, but not inebriates—had its origin in this obscure, remote country.

Up in the interior, some 6000 feet high amongst the mountains, lies the unique inland sea called Lake Tsana. There, on the top, the Chief Engineer of the Universe has stored in abundance *Varuna's* own waters for the benefit of man,—a kind of natural 'Pudukkulam', but covering an area larger than the size of our State itself! ABYSSINIA owes its importance largely to the existence of this lake, which supplies her with nearly 35,000,000,000 cubic metres of water every year.

Out of this vast inland sea, emerges the Abbai or the 'blue sister of the Nile', the real source of fertility of the SUDAN and EGYPT, and the control of whose waters has always been a bone of contention amongst the rival claimants for power in AFRICA. To the Abyssinian, the river is an object of sanctity; ITALY has always cast longing eyes on its control; to EGYPT it supplies the life-giving waters; for BRITAIN with her position in the SUDAN, it is of vital importance; even AMERICA has certain treaty rights concerning it.

The country is divided into about 20 Provinces, of which the more important are TIGRE, GOJJAM, HARAR, SHOA and JIMMA. The only big towns are ADDIS ABABA (New Flower), the capital, HARAR and DIREDAWA, though the old capitals were AKSUM, GONDAR and AMHARA. Over these districts provincial chiefs, called Rases, exercise extraordinary power. A railway line running from ADDIS ABABA to JIBUTI, in French SOMALILAND is the vital link between the interior and the sea coast.

Religion plays a large part in the life of the average Ethiopian. The Coptic form of Christianity, with its emphasis on rituals and ceremonies, saints and angels, confessions and fasts, prevails. Pilgrimage

to the shrines in JERUSALEM is considered a sacred duty, and covers many sins. The head of the Church is called the Abuna, and he and more than a 100,000 priests under him wield tremendous influence in religion and in politics.

One of the chief blots on the Abyssinian administration is the continued existence of slavery. It is true that there are other countries for example ARABIA, CHINA, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE, etc., where slavery prevails in one form or another. But, in ABYSSINIA, it is an essential factor in social organisation. About one-fifth of the people are slaves. It is said that "an Abyssinian without slaves is inconceivable."

The Abyssinian flag is that of St. George, the patron saint of ENGLAND. It was on St. George's day in 1896, that the Abyssinians won their epoch-making victory over ITALY at ADOWA. It is a red, gold and green banner with the Lion of Judah emblazoned on it. The Royal family traces its descent from the great Solomon, son of King David, the wisest man of his generation, and the Queen of Sheba, who "came from the uttermost parts of the world", having heard of his wisdom. According to Abyssinian tradition, this famous Queen was Queen of ETHIOPIA, and their son was King Menelek I. It is said of Menelek that he took the Ark of the Covenant with him from JERUSALEM when he returned from a visit to his father Solomon. Scions of the Solomonian dynasty continue to rule in ETHIOPIA with the title of Negus (King) or Negusa Negasat (King of Kings, Rajadhirajah). The present king, Hailé Sélassie who came to the throne in 1930 bears the titles King of Abyssinia, King of the Kings of ETHIOPIA, Lion of Judah, the Elect of God.

Now, what part does ABYSSINIA play in the present titanic struggle that is being waged in two continents, on the seas, and in the air? Students of contemporary history know that when about six months ago, British and Imperial troops started the offensive in North and East AFRICA, ETHIOPIA was bound to come into the picture sooner or later; and it did not require a prophet to anticipate that ABYSSINIA would have a considerable part to play in subsequent military operations in North-east AFRICA.

In actual fact, ABYSSINIA it will appear that had a good deal to do with the very genesis of the present war, if one surveys the course of events in EUROPE and elsewhere during the last decade. Contemporary chroniclers can date the present war as beginning, in one sense,

in 1931 when JAPAN attacked MANCHURIA. JAPAN'S unpunished aggression led ITALY to follow her example in the Italo-Abyssinian war in 1935. Then followed the Spanish Civil War, and a series of incidents which threatened to involve all EUROPE in a military conflagration over the questions of RHINELAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AUSTRIA, SUDETENLAND, and finally culminated in the German seizure of DANZIG and POLAND. Through all this ran the increasing tension in relations between BRITAIN and ITALY, and FRANCE and ITALY, over the League of Nations unbacked-up strictures on Mussolini's Abyssinian adventure.

For other traces of Abyssinian influence on European quarrels we can go even further back. A study of the history of European colonising attempts during the last few decades will show how the undeveloped parts of the world, especially in AFRICA, were parcelled out amongst the various European Powers. ABYSSINIA, it is true, continued as a semi-independent country, but ITALY, BRITAIN and FRANCE were all interested in her development, and ABYSSINIA formed the subject of difficult negotiations and uneasy treaties amongst them. It was ITALY'S attempt to jump a claim there which brought her into open conflict with ABYSSINIA in 1896, a conflict which resulted in the overthrow of the Italian invaders at ADOWA, and the triumph of the would-be-victim.

Ten years later, in 1906, the three powers, BRITAIN, FRANCE and ITALY formed a Tripartite treaty agreeing to respect the integrity and independence of ABYSSINIA. But in 1915, when the first World War was going on, FRANCE and BRITAIN made certain concessions to ITALY to induce her to abandon GERMANY and join them, which included various unspecified colonial promises in AFRICA and ASIA MINOR; and Italians seem to have interpreted this as moral and diplomatic support for their resurrected designs on ABYSSINIA. But that relations were not compatible was soon shown in the abortive negotiations in 1909 for BRITAIN'S agreement to the construction of a Railway joining up Italian SOMALILAND and ERITREA.

The next significant event was ABYSSINIA'S entry into the League of Nations in 1923 with the active support of FRANCE and ITALY. Both these countries thought this step a clever move to frustrate what were believed to be "British designs"—for such was the interpretation put upon the agitation in BRITAIN against slavery in ABYSSINIA. The British delegate expressed doubts as to whether ABYSSINIA was

civilized enough to be admitted, but the Italian delegate considered that "ABYSSINIA's request constituted a great tribute to the League of Nations", and in 1923, ABYSSINIA was admitted, subject to her undertaking to do her best to end slavery and slave-trade.

In 1925, rather unexpectedly, BRITAIN and ITALY reached another agreement over the Abyssinian problem, after long negotiations. This treaty provided for the construction of a barrage on Lake Tsana to control the distribution of its waters, and of a motor road from Lake Tsana to the SUDAN, in BRITAIN's interests, in return for a railway from ERITREA to Italian SOMALILAND across ADDIS ABABA for ITALY.

The Emperor was naturally angry at these extraneous arrangements, and in 1926 addressed a protest letter to the League, pointing out that the 1925 agreement was concluded without his knowledge, and that as a member State of the League, ETHIOPIA was on a footing of equality with other States and that its prerogatives must be universally respected. ITALY's reply suggested that the "Abyssinian Government had not understood the letter and the spirit of the Agreement, in which there was nothing to justify the apprehensions on the part of ETHIOPIA."

However, in 1928 ITALY signed a treaty of Arbitration with ABYSSINIA providing that "both Governments agreed to submit to the proceedings of conciliation and arbitration disputes which may arise between them, and which it may not have been possible to settle by ordinary diplomatic methods". Yet complaints still continued. And it is interesting to note that one of the Italian grievances was that, "instead of allowing ITALY to step in and develop the country, the Emperor had actually been attempting to civilise and modernise his own people and had devoted special attention to making national defence more effective"!

With these predisposing causes in the background it is not difficult to realise that the two nations might soon drift into war, and that ITALY was only waiting for a pretext to pounce upon her victim, as in the fable of the tiger and the lamb. In January 1935 there were certain slight misunderstandings between BRITAIN and FRANCE, because ENGLAND had concluded a secret naval treaty with GERMANY. FRANCE was terrified and rushed to Mussolini for an alliance. This gave Mussolini the chance he was waiting for. The ostensible cause was a frontier incident—one of many—at WAL WAL between Italian native

forces and an Abyssinian force, which could have been settled by ordinary peaceful methods. But Fascist ITALY was thirsting for war; and on October 3, 1935, Mussolini launched an invasion on ABYSSINIA without even a formal declaration of war. Both parties were members of the League of Nations; and it added to the irony of the situation that when the invasion began the League was in actual session. World opinion was profoundly shocked. ABYSSINIA appealed to the League, which declared ITALY to be the aggressor; and after much delay, applied limited economic sanctions against her, i. e., member States were forbidden to deal with her in regard to various imported commodities. In the effort to stop the war the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, and the French Prime Minister, M. Laval, agreed to propose a compromise which involved the handing over considerable parts of ABYSSINIA to ITALY. This led to a public outcry in LONDON and Sir Samuel Hoare had to resign. Meanwhile ABYSSINIA fought bravely; but her forces were no match for the highly mechanised armies of ITALY who supported them from the air with bombs and poison-gas.

Thus atrociously victimised, ABYSSINIA became part of Italian East AFRICA in May 1936. Since then she has continued as an Italian Province under successive Italian Governors-General, viz., Marshal Badoglio, Marshal Graziani and the Duke of Aosta. Meanwhile the Ex-Emperor, Hailé Sélassie, lived as an exile in ENGLAND, thirsting for his revenge, biding his chance and waiting for a convenient opportunity to get back to his Kingdom. That chance came in about November 1940, when BRITAIN with her Imperial and African forces began to take the offensive in North and East AFRICA. In our own Bulletins from December onwards, we anticipated that ABYSSINIA was only waiting for a 'good opportunity to break out into open rebellion' (December 14, 1940) and subsequent events have more than justified our anticipations.

Within the last two months, Italian resistance has crumbled before the well-considered and purposeful campaign of British and Indian troops under General Wavell.

Mussolini's ambition in AFRICA has long been to create an Italian African Empire. "*Una sempre piu grande Italia*" (an even greater ITALY) is his ideal. The Italian King's "Emperorship" itself depends on his hold over ABYSSINIA. But ABYSSINIA has almost slipped out of his grasp. One by one DIREDAWA, HARAR, ADDIS ABABA and other centres have been captured by the Imperial and Abyssinian armies.

The country has been practically cleared of all Italian forces; and out of the original Italian army of 130,000, only two small remnants under the Duke of Aosta and General Frusci remain. The story of the reception given to the Imperial forces at ADDIS ABABA reads almost like an epic, and is an excellent augury for the future friendly relations between BRITAIN and ABYSSINIA. In the words of Mr. Winston Churchill, "Mussolini's Empire in AFRICA is about to be torn into shreds. This in the fullness of time, will be the fate of all Dictators."

Incidentally, the successful ending of the Abyssinian struggle, will, apart from its prestige value, release for military action elsewhere in AFRICA and other theatres of war, armies and air-forces which are sorely needed at the present time. The Ethiopians themselves, though not supplied with the best weapons of mechanised scientific warfare, have proved their mettle on many hard-fought fields. They have, like the Maratha armies of old, just the qualities necessary for guerilla warfare—easy mobility, steady perseverance, extraordinary patience and an uncanny ability to subsist and even flourish on minimum food supplies—qualities which would take them a long way against any enemy in a mountainous country.

Meanwhile successive declarations of policy made by British statesmen have made the attitude of BRITAIN towards ABYSSINIA abundantly clear. It was only a few days ago that Mr. R. A. Butler announced in the House of Commons that "BRITAIN has no territorial ambitions in ABYSSINIA." Thus ABYSSINIA's independence is assured. "Out of evil cometh good"; and as sequel to the Italian invasion, (and Italians are good roadmakers) ABYSSINIA has been supplied with a good road system and some of the latest developments of motor transport. A good deal has been accomplished towards converting the country from a semi-barbarous condition to modern ways of living.

"ETHIOPIA shall soon stretch out her hands unto God", so sang the Psalmist centuries ago, and this famous Text has become the watchword of the Abyssinian renaissance. On the morrow of the recapture of ADDIS ABABA, in the midst of the triumphs in other parts of ABYSSINIA, ERITREA and other places where Italian armies are surrendering *en masse*, on the eve of epochal events in all theatres of war, the words of the Father of Solomon the wise, have a special significance. "My faith" declared Emperor Hailé Sélassie, "in the approaching liberation of ETHIOPIA is as absolute as my faith in the victory of my great Ally."

May his faith be abundantly fulfilled!

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

17—4—41 to 23—4—41.

'A Fighting Retreat'.—In the early days when Prince Paul, Regent of YUGOSLAVIA, was friendly to the Axis, the main Greek strength was concentrated in Central MACEDONIA to resist any possible Nazi attack. But when the *Coup d' état* changed YUGOSLAVIA into an ally, she was placed in charge of this sector. As soon as the invasion began, the enemy, using his full mechanised strength broke through the defence and crossing the MONASTIR GAP threatened the Allied rear. In these circumstances the only course open was to shorten the line and withdraw to prepared positions between Mount Olympus and the Albanian frontier.

The enemy pressure continuing, the Allies have since moved further back, fighting heroically and inflicting huge losses, and the enemy has captured KALABAKA, KLISSURA, ERSEK, Mount Olympus, TRIKKALA, LARISSA and YANNINA. The British forces now stand at the historic pass of THERMOPYLAE, awaiting a full-scale attack at any moment.

In a leading article *The Times* has pointed out the difficult character of the rear guard action in which the Allied forces are engaged. It states:—" It has been carried out, apparently without excessive loss, compared with those inflicted upon the enemy.

" It must be admitted that there can be no hope of respite and no certainty of holding the enemy upon a rearmed position. His superiority in armoured fighting vehicles, and still more in aircraft, enables him to keep up the pressure, however great his losses in both or in men.

" The bomber and low-flying fighter with its machine-guns are constantly harassing our troops and transport. Every now and then the attack may be broken up and severely punished by R. A. F. fighters, but the latter are not numerous enough to be sent on every occasion, and there is evidence that over and over again our men have had to rely on light machine-guns mounted on trucks to stop the swoop of hostile aircraft.

"The German command is out for a decision. It will hesitate at no sacrifice nor is there any reason to suppose that German troops in general will fail to respond to its drive, even if the Australian units should be beginning to find the strain too great.

"*Whatever the outcome of this unequal battle, it seems certain that never yet since he started his career of aggressor has Hitler encountered any physical or moral resistance of the quality he now has to face.*

"**And that resistance is being made by a small Imperial expeditionary force, fighting side by side with the soldiers of a small nation, almost unarmed by standards of modern equipment, a small nation, which has already been fighting for half a year against the better armed and more numerous army of Hitler's partner and has beaten it in every encounter.**"

The Greek surrender.—Meanwhile news has come of the surrender on Sunday, of the Greek army in EPIRUS and MACEDONIA. According to a Greek High Command *Communiqué* the capitulation was the result of heavy enemy attack on the rear. According to King George of the Hellenes, who has now shifted his Government from ATHENS to CRETE, the capitulation was signed without his knowledge, or that of his Commander-in-Chief or his Government. Perhaps the surrender was hasty, perhaps it was inevitable; but there is no doubt the situation has worsened. Authentic information is not yet available of the extent of the capitulation but it is likely to be 'between 10 and 16 divisions.' The surrender is a tragic end to six months of successful warfare but the glory that GREECE has won already has made her name imperishable, and will not be dimmed by a capitulation necessitated by the combined attack of two large Empires from the back.

It is ironical that the surrender should have taken place even as Mr. Menzies has been pointing out to a critical world the necessity of British, Australian and NEW ZEALAND assistance to GREECE in her hour of trial, fully aware of the dangers ahead and the seriousness of an engagement on foreign soil, with a mere expeditionary force.

King Peter of YUGOSLAVIA has flown from ATHENS to JERUSALEM. On his way he was attacked over the Mediterranean by enemy planes, and one of his ministers was killed.

The thieves have already [illegible]et to divide the spoils and perhaps to quarrel over the boot[illegible] Ribbentrop and Ciano are reported to be conferring. I[illegible] wants the Dalimatian Coast, BULGARIA wants MACEDONIA [illegible] both HUNGARY and RUMANIA want the BANAT.

[illegible]ya—The situation in LIBYA remains unchanged. Two more [illegible]ks on TOBRUK have been repulsed.

British forces have counter-attacked SOLLUM, and the R. A. F., in conjunction with the Fleet Air Arm have carried out successful bombardments on TRIPOLI, Fort CAPUZZO and EL GAZALA. A British force landed at BARDIA on the night of April 19-20 with the purpose of destroying dumps and coastal batteries, and having effected their object and also blown up a bridge, the major part of the force re-embarked and returned safely to its base.

Abyssinia—According to the latest news by radio, DESSIE has been approached by the South African Imperial Troops.

In connection with the protection that BRITAIN is prepared to give to the white population in ABYSSINIA, and as a preliminary condition General A. C. Cunningham, Commander-in-Chief of the South African Forces demanded the surrender of the Italian forces in ABYSSINIA; but it is reported that the Duke of Aosta has refused to lay down arms.

The battle of the Atlantic.—As the spring advances, the tempo of the battle is quickening. The enemy is risking his navy and making a desperate use of his U. boats, merchant-raiders, and surface-warships in order to check the increased supply of war exports from AMERICA under the Lease and Lend Act. The lengthening days and the short nights compel him to use a larger number of surface-craft in preference to U. boats.

Speaking upon the subject at Tottenham, on Sunday, Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, said :—

"The burden of the Atlantic battle was both grievous and heavy, but never for a moment, day and night, was there any slackening in the prosecution of the fight.

"This battle has its ups and downs, but I assure you that neither the U. boats nor German long-range aircraft have it all their own way.

"We continue to take toll of both and as the strength of the co-operation of the Navy with the R. A. F. Coastal Command increases, and the number of escorting destroyers and corvettes increases, that toll of the enemy will increase until the Battle of the Atlantic is won."

Some American experts have suggested that instead of convoying merchantships a lane may be opened across the Atlantic from LABRADOR to the BRITISH ISLES, using some 50 destroyers which will patrol about 10 times a day over a sector of 50 miles each.

Mr. Aiken, EIRE Minister for defence has declined to lend or lease ports in EIRE for defence. He says his country would not barter its sovereign rights for food.

Air-raids.—BREMEN, BREST, HELIGOLAND and BERCK in the enemy country were attacked and damaged during the week. The raid on BREMEN inflicted a heavy blow upon the building of new Atlantic raiders which is in progress. Thursday's night attack on BERLIN was one of the heaviest. The new 'Stirling' four-engined bombers hurled very powerful bombs recently introduced into the service. The centre of BERLIN, which was the main target was chequered with fires. A German Communiqué admits very heavy damage.

There were two raids over LONDON, as well as PLYMOUTH during the week. LONDON'S Wednesday raid was savage. The West End was particularly 'bombed, blasted and burnt'. Churches, hospitals, cinemas, shops and warehouses were battered. The north transept of St. Paul's was damaged and other historic edifices that have suffered are the City Temple, Guy's Hospital, Chelsea Old Church and Chelsea Royal Hospital.

Japan.—Following the conclusion of the Soviet-Japanese pact, JAPAN'S military and naval activities in South CHINA have definitely increased, the aim being to cut off supplies to CHUNGKING from sea and land. Treaty Ports including WENCHOW, FOOCHOW, and NINGPO, have been captured, and the suspension bridge at KUNGKUO on the BURMA Road has been bombed.

France.—VICHY, or rather Darlan, has apparently decided to collaborate with GERMANY beyond the terms of the armistice. This is the reason for large supplies reaching GERMANY from Unoccupied FRANCE,

and particularly for the hostile attitude assumed recently when the French shore batteries in ALGERIA opened fire on British war-vessels while exercising their ordinary belligerent rights.

The latest proof of the domination of German influence is FRANCE's—or rather VICHY's, withdrawal from the League of Nations.

Armed mobile guards are patrolling the gateways of VICHY, and machine-guns have been set up in the streets out of fear of insurrection by the *Rassemblement National Populare*—a pro-Nazi organisation which has been set up by Laval in hostility to Pétain.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. British forces, largely from INDIA were landed on April 17 and 18 in BASRA, in order to open up lines of communication through IRAQ in accordance with the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of Alliance of June 30, 1930, under which IRAQ is bound to give all assistance, including aerodromes, railways, ports, etc., to BRITAIN. The new IRAQ Administration is reported to be giving necessary facilities. The step is regarded as a timely measure taken to prevent German machinations from reaching the valuable MOSUL oil-fields and bases close to SUEZ.

2. The departure for BERLIN of Von Papen, the German ambassador in TURKEY has given rise to rumours that the Nazis are intriguing to bring about a non-aggression pact with TURKEY.

3. Agreements have been reached under which RUSSIA has agreed to supply food to BELGIUM and corn, cake-meal and cotton to NORWAY.

4. Disorder has once again broken out in RUMANIA and General Antonescu is ordering wholesale execution of Iron-Guardists.

5. CANADA may participate in the defence of GREENLAND as she now does in the case of ICELAND.

ROYAL and ALLIED Air Force Raids on ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
14—4—41. (Monday).		
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—		
A convoy of supply ships with an escort of fighters and naval patrol vessels off the DUTCH COAST.		1 ship sunk.
Power station at HAARLEM. **The power station and the troops guarding it** at LAEIDEN.		Power stations hit. Troops machine-gunned.
The crew of a gun emplacement near ZANDYOORT (the NETHERLANDS).	1 plane.	Machine-gunned.
NIGHT :—		
The Naval Base and the two German battle cruisers at BREST.		Pounded.
BALKANS.		
Enemy convoys in the region of YANITZA, PTOLEMAIS, KOZANE and GORNI DZUMAYA.		Heavy damage to enemy personnel and material.
Aerial fight over VOLO area.		2 bombers.
PTOLEMAIS.	No loss.	2 planes.
ITALIAN AFRICA.		
Military buildings and aircraft dispersed on the ground at EL ADEM, DERNA and GAMBUT.		Heavy explosions and fires started. Many planes damaged.
German planes on the ground and enemy motor transport vehicles at MONASTIR.	4 planes.	3 planes. Many motor vehicles damaged.
The harbour and shipping at TRIPOLI.		1 ship burnt ; many damaged.
Aerodromes at GIMMA and KOMBOLCHA.		2 planes.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
15—4—41. (Tuesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Three heavily laden enemy ships off the North-west coast of FRANCE.		2 ships sunk.
	An enemy freighter off the Island of BORKUM.		Directly hit twice.
	Offensive patrols over the CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE.	2 planes.	3 planes.
NIGHT :—			
	Ship building yards at KIEL **Docks** at BOULOGNE.	2 planes.	
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Troops and Motor transport concentrations at EL ADEM, TOBRUK and BARDIA areas.	No loss.	Heavy casualties and serious loss.
	BALKANS.		
	Enemy communications, troop concentrations behind the enemy's line.		Heavily pounded.
	Air support to Imperial troops.		
16—4—41. (Wednesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	The Island of HELIGOLAND. **The aerodrome** at BRECK.	1 plane.	Considerably damaged.
NIGHT :—			
	DOCKS at BREST.		
	German towns of BREMEN, BREST WILHELMSHAVEN, CUXHAVEN and WESERMUNDE.	3 planes.	Heavy damage everywhere.
	BALKANS.		
	KOZANE-BITOLJ-PTOLEMAIS ...	...	...
	The Railway near KORINOS ...	...	...
	Motor transport near KITROS ...	...	...
	A station south-east of KATARIMI ...	...	...
	A series of aerodromes and a convoy east of SALONIKA.	...	Damaged.

Date	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
16—4—41.	(**Wednesday.**)—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The Naval base, shipping and the harbour installations in TRIPOLI.	No loss.	Many ships hit. Harbour damaged.
	Enemy mechanised units, troops and landing grounds in CYRENAICA.	...	...
	A motorised column near Fort CAPUZZO.	...	Many vehicles destroyed ; casualties among troops heavy.
	The aerodromes at EL GAZALA, EL-ADEM, DERNA and DESSIE.	...	1 plane.
	Convoys in the DERNA area ...	...	...
	Enemy troops and encampment in the MADARA and ALGHE areas.	...	Heavy casualties.
17—4—41.	(**Thursday**).		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Enemy merchant vessels, the harbour and the Docks at CHERBOURG.	No loss.	Heavily damaged. Many ships hit.
	NIGHT :—		
	The city of BERLIN (the capital of GERMANY).		"Heaviest" raid yet. Many fires started. Casualties exceptionally heavy.
	Targets in HOLLAND, including ROTTERDAM.		
	COLOGNE ...		
	Many places in North-west GERMANY.	No loss.	2 planes.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Motor transport, concentrations of enemy troops, landing grounds, stores and dumps in CYRENAICA.		Heavily damaged.
	Enemy aircraft on the ground at DERNA.	No loss.	Many planes damaged.
	BALKANS.		
	Enemy communications and troop concentrations over the entire front.		Smashed.
	Reconnaissances over Enemy occupied territories.	No loss.	

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.

18—4—41. (Friday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

Two merchant vessels and enemy escort near HELIGOLAND.	8 planes.	All the three set on fire and are total losses.
Two vessels off the NORWEGIAN coast.		Both sunk.

ITALIAN AFRICA.

Mechanised units and troop concentrations in CYRENAICA.		Many vehicles destroyed.
Aircraft on the ground at KOMBOLCHA.		7 planes destroyed.
Aerodrome at SCIASCIAMMANNA ...	1 plane.	1 plane.
Docks at BENGHAZI ...		1 ship sunk.

BALKANS.

Enemy communications, troops and motor transport on all fronts.	...	Pounded. Heavy damage.
Offensive patrols over enemy territories.	2 planes.	...

19—4—41. (Saturday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

DAY :—

Enemy shipping off the DUTCH Coast.	...	A ship of 5000 tons sunk. Another listed.
Several other ships in small convoys in the North SEA.	No loss.	...

NIGHT :—

Offensive patrols over Enemy territories.	...	...

ITALIAN AFRICA.

Enemy positions, motor transport, fortifications and military buildings in the DESSIE—ALOMATA area.	...	Pounded. Heavily damaged.
Motor transport and oil tankers north of DESSIE.	...	Damaged ; Oil tankers set on fire.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
19—4—41.	**(Saturday)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA—*cont.*		
	Motor transport at ACROMA, EL ADEM and BARDIA.	...	Numerous casualties.
	Aerodromes at DERNA and BRECK ...	...	...
	Offensive patrols over motorised troops.	...	...
	Aerodrome at EL GAZALA ...	...	3 planes; many more damaged.
	Shipping and Docks at TRIPOLI ...	...	Straddled with bombs.
	BALKANS.		
	Enemy troops and communications in Northern GREECE.	...	...
20—4—41.	**(Sunday).**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Shipping off the DUTCH and NORWEGIAN coasts.	No loss.	...
	NIGHT :—		
	COLOGNE, DUSSELDORF and **AACHEN.**	...	Heavily damaged.
	Several aerodromes in GERMANY and Occupied territories.	...	Damaged.
	Oil stores at ROTTERDAM ...	...	Set on fire.
	Docks at DUNKIRK and OSTEND ...	...	Pounded.
	Quays and docks at BREST ...	No loss.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy transport, troop concentrations and landing grounds in CYRENAICA	...	Heavy casualties
	DERNA, BENGHAZI and **EL GAZALA**	...	Damaged.
	BALKANS.		
	Enemy occupied aerodromes and troop concentrations in GREECE.	...	...
	Aerodrome at KATERINE ...	...	A big fire started.

Enemy Raids on BRITAIN; BRITISH and ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy air-craft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
15—4—41. (Tuesday).	**BRITAIN.**		
NIGHT :—			
	A South Coastal **town** in ENGLAND.		Slight damage.
	A few places in South-west and North-east ENGLAND.		
	Northern IRELAND	6 planes.	Many people killed; Buildings hit; Casualties heavy.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA	...	Very little damage.
	GREECE.		
	The earthquake stricken city of LARISSA	3 planes.	Civilians killed.
	TRIKKALA	...	Many injured.
	The harbour at PIRAEUS	8 planes. Many others damaged.	Slight damage.
16—4—41. (Wednesday).	**BRITAIN.**		
NIGHT :—			
	LONDON, HOME COUNTIES		"Heaviest" yet. Casualties heavy.
	A few places in South ENGLAND	7 planes.	Slight damage.
	BALKANS.		
	The aerodrome at HERAKLION	1 plane.	No damage.
17—4—41. (Thursday).	**BRITAIN.**		
DAY :—			
	Straits of DOVER	2 planes.	...
	A town in North-east SCOTLAND	...	No damage.
NIGHT :—			
	North-east ENGLAND **An area** in South ENGLAND LONDON (only an alert)	3 planes.	

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
18—4—41. (Friday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air activity anywhere ...	...	...
	GREECE.		
	Villages in the interior of GREECE.	...	...
19—4—41. (Saturday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	LONDON and a few other places in ENGLAND	...	Damage slight and casualties small.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	...	Civilians killed.
20—4—41. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	KENT coast and North-east SCOTLAND	...	Casualties few.
NIGHT :—			
	No enemy air activity	...	...
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA	...	Slight damage.
	LIBYA.		
	TOBRUK	1 plane ; others damaged.	
	GREECE.		
	Ground troops and shipping at KHALKIS	...	6 planes ; many others damaged.
	Greek villages of MELOS, THEBES, KALAMATA	...	Many planes destroyed.
21—4—41. (Monday).			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	South-east ENGLAND	...	Slight damage.
	PLYMOUTH **and a few districts** in East ANGLIA	...	A few killed or injured.
	GREECE.		
	ATHENS and **CORFU** ...	7 planes.	22 planes.
	Many villages in GREECE ...	...	...

SIDE LIGHTS.

SENSE OF PROPORTION. People are apt to worry as to which of such and such theatres of war is 'the vital one.' Is the war lost because we have borrowed from the Army of the Nile to reinforce Imperial troops in the BALKANS? Are we going to make a major affair of and win a major victory in this battle at the back door of GERMANY? Is BRITAIN'S, or Hitler's deathblow being delivered in the Battle of the Atlantic, or in the mighty bombing duels over centres of production? If the answer is negative—and I am certain it is—let us keep our heads, trust our leaders, and see the thing big! For IS this a battle between LONDON and BERLIN, or even of GREAT BRITAIN against GERMANY? Is it not rather a gigantic contest between what Major-General Fuller calls the Oceanic Powers and the Continental Powers? It is a struggle between the British Empire (covering a quarter of the globe) morally and economically backed by the U. S. A., and GERMANY and ITALY (who now control three-quarters of EUROPE, west of the Vistula) morally and economically supported by the U. S. S. R. and JAPAN.

General Fuller adds an interesting calculation to this statement of forces. **Five-sixths of the world's sea-power is concentrated on the one side—and five-sixths of the land-power on the other**. Seen like this, what we witness daily are the merest incidents—and the end is not yet.

A JOB OF WORK. There is one man who reading the above might say that it is all very well to minimise the importance of 'local' theatres,—but what about me? That man is General Wavell. Has anybody since Napoleon had such an enormous and variegated command? This is his job.

(i) He is in supreme command of the British and Imperial forces in GREECE and the BALKANS.

(ii) Ditto, in LIBYA, EGYPT, the SUDAN, KENYA, ERITREA, ABYSSINIA and both SOMALILANDS.

(iii) Ditto, all R. A. F. operations on eight fronts from SOMALILAND to SICILY.

(iv) Ditto, Naval operations in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

A LUMINOUS SIDE LIGHT. We recently commented in this column upon the extensive facilities allowed to responsible American newspaper reporters. To judge by the following, they are not the only people to enjoy special advantages. Journalists 'covering' Italian prisoners, for instance, have provided the "*New Times* and *Ethiopia News*" with this fascinating story.

"Duce into King?

The following information comes from trust-worthy Court Circles in ROME.

"When BRITAIN, after a too-long period of 'appeasement,' finally declared that a state of war existed with GERMANY, Hitler was greatly perturbed. The same evening he asked Mussolini to declare war on BRITAIN.

"Early the following morning Mussolini called on the King of ITALY to obtain his signature to the Italian declaration of war. The King asked time to consider his decision. Meanwhile, he sought the advice of Marshal Badoglio, who advised that it would be rash and foolish to declare war on BRITAIN.

" Badoglio knew the weakness of the Italian army, in more points than one. He convinced the King that it was his duty to resist the demand of the Duce.

" When Mussolini returned in the afternoon he met a determined refusal from the King. After a discussion, which lasted the best part of half an hour, he let free his rage, and in angry tones demanded Victor Emmanuel's abdication. He would not hesitate, he declared, to use the force of his Blackshirts should the Monarch resist.

" Badoglio, seeing the King's vacillation, drew his revolver, and covering Mussolini, exclaimed : '*Ti ritiri o ti freddo*' (you go out, or I kill you).

"Mussolini is a coward. He meekly retired. The monarchy was saved. The Duce's dream of becoming the sole ruler of Italy, the Imperator of his country, was dashed to the ground.

"The above recorded incident, being known in high military circles, he feared a military *coup d'état*, organised by generals more loyal to the King than to himself, which would result in his own deposition from power, instead of the King's abdication.

" Whether or not this military plan to get rid of Mussolini went further than a discussion, whether preparations were made to put it into effect, will probably remain a secret. The dead are silent.

" Marshal Balbo met with an 'unfortunate' accident; more recently two Italian generals crashed near Acqui. Badoglio has been dismissed. Will he speak one day ?"

MORE OF THE REAL STUFF. In January last we published some first-hand impressions of LONDON under *blitz* from a lady member of the LONDON Auxiliary Fire service, which attracted some attention by their freshness and high spirit. We are fortunate to be able to print another instalment just received by air.

The letter is addressed " Kensington Fire Station."

"London *blitzes* have been far fewer lately. The last one which affected us much was on Saturday 11th, when we had some fires in Kensington. Among other places Rowleys, the furniture people who specialised in lovely painted wood, etc., in Church Street, were burnt down. The M...'s had all their house modernised by them.

"They are demolishing most of the ruins in London which is a good thing gaps look much better than ruins. The clubs in Piccadilly have suffered a great deal. The "In and Out" is badly damaged, also 96 Piccadilly, and windows are smashed all the way along to and including the Ritz. The public lavatories by Green Park station have been very unlucky. They had just been; repairing them after the first time they were bombed, when they caught it again. The tube station to which communiqués referred after the last bad raid was the Bank, and the station officer here told me that 185 people were killed. This is one of the things I have *not* mentioned to Mother.......

"You were asking after several people. The Milford aunts are still at Milford. They have had the hall ceiling strengthened with props of some kind, and for a time slept downstairs, but lately I think are back in their rooms again. Like other people, I expect, they vary their procedure according to circumstances. Since my week at Maidenhead in November, I have slept in my top bedroom at 43 every night I have been there except one The nights I have been on leave the raids have been largely over by the time I went to bed. Nearly all the hectic nights have been when I was at the Fire Station.

"Mother is sending you a copy of the letter she had from Mrs.... Why she moved to a place like Beckenham, I can't imagine. All the air fights take place over the south-eastern suburbs, and the M...'s sleep in their dug-out every night.

"Did you ever see the film "The Lion Has Wings", I imagine it has got to India by now? Leslie M... is one of the people who sit round the big map on the table in the middle, following the course of enemy aircraft over this country. He is in the Observer Corps, and finds it most interesting. Does about two days and nights a week, as well as his ordinary work. There are a few theatres open for matinees only, and quite a lot of cinemas, but the West-end ones have to close at 7 p.m. so all open in the morning with no cheap seats.

"I am so sick that my Colombo pyjamas are wearing out. Heaven alone knows when I'll get any more. It is becoming increasingly difficult to buy quite ordinary things in the shops now. Things like toilet things or cosmetics you have to see if they get any more on the first of the month. For instance there is not a bottle of 'Larola' to be had in the whole of Kensington High Street at the moment, or 'Icilma' Dry Shampoo powder! I went to see Miss S...at "Lydia" the other day. They are the only shop in the whole street, in fact the whole neighbourhood, that haven't had their windows smashed! They

are carrying on with difficulty, but of course all trade is very bad. They say the big houses like Hartnells, or even some of their competitors who have French names are doing a huge export trade to America. Every help is being afforded them by the Government who of course want to capture the trade normally done by France and collect some dollars, and not a single ship has been lost!

"I am gradually getting completely unsuited to mix in our normal society; one does pick up comic habits so easily! I have to watch myself that I don't eat with my knife and fork alternately, and use other strange table manners; swear more than normally permitted, using words not normally in use in polite society, or say things like, "The snow is laying", "No, it's thoring now", "What was you saying just now?" and "There wasn't nobody there". So don't be surprised at anything I may do in the far future! I have certainly made some friends I shall never want to lose sight of! I wish I could write a book on my experiences. I certainly never envisaged myself being addressed as anything from "Jo" or "Josephine" to "Darling" or "Sweetheart" by ex naval ratings, merchant seamen, milkmen, etc., etc. ! They are too priceless for words!.

"We had a marvellous time at Xmas. There were no raids and no fires to speak of, and we had a huge Xmas dinner both Xmas day and Boxing Day, and a party both nights. Xmas night we danced to the gramophone and the next night had a soldier pianist and a drummer. One of the A. F. S. was a professional dancer and so of course is very good, and several of the firemen dance well. It was an awful rag, specially Boxing night—when all sorts of people, policemen, etc., drifted in as they heard there was a good party on at the Fire Station! We also had an impromptu one (as there was not an air raid) on New Year's Eve, finishing at 2 a. m. I have not enjoyed a Xmas so much since I was a child. You would not have thought there was any food shortage, we had turkey both days, and a bottle of beer apiece. Incidentally I have become a regular beer drinker since I came here, I now weigh 9 stone 4lb. an increase of 11lb. since July."

AN APOLOGY. The writer of these notes attempted a jest in his last paragraph a fortnight ago. It was heavy-handed as a joke, and has been reported as having given offence where none was intended. Since no really good joke is ever either hurtful or ponderous, the writer offers his apology to the publisher of the College Magazine against whom he tilted, and to any others who may have felt themselves affronted.

[The perpetrator has this to be said for him. He referred to a proverb. Now, the essence of a proverb is that it is allusive and not literal, and certainly this particular proverb can never have been intended, or used, for literal interpretation. Ed.]

THE VOICE OF BIG BEN.

[There is an old saying that History repeats itself. In 1914 Germany under the Kaiser made the mistake of thinking that in the moment of crisis the British Empire would desert the mother country. Nazi Germany under Hitler has made that same mistake, and more than that, she has made the mistake of failing to understand how great is the love of freedom in the U. S. A. In his talk tonight Lieutenant-Commander Thomas Woodruff will tell you why he knows that Germany will again be proved gravely wrong].

A few nights ago I was walking down Whitehall, that broad thoroughfare which seems to cleave right into the heart of the Empire. As a full moon was sailing high in the heavens, it was almost as light as day. That pillared screen in front of the Admiralty, the heavy sumptuousness of the War Office, the rather florid mass of the Foreign Office, all bathed in that silvery radiance, assumed a likeness and just a touch of unreality, that they never hold under the harsh light of day. Differences of architecture and proportion seemed to melt away in that magic glow, until the whole street looked as if it might have been designed by just one architect. There were no street lamps, no chinks of light from the heavily curtained windows, to distract my eyes, as I looked down upon the spires of Westminster to the Tower of Big Ben, standing up like sentinels out of the same pearly haze, at their posts on the banks of the Thames. There was hardly any traffic. The lights of an occasional car would come sweeping out like a couple of fireflies, and disappear round Trafalgar Square. All was silent and ghostly, until suddenly Big Ben spoke up and chimed the quarter. As that strong, resonant voice struck out the hour, and echoed over what seemed to be a sleeping city, the sirens started to wail in the distance, and there was the drone of Nazi bombers overhead. But above the howling and the drone, the calm, unhurried voice of Big Ben sounded out, the same manly voice, that betokened a resolute and valiant heart.

As I walked on down towards Westminster, I thought of **the message that Big Ben was giving to the whole Empire over the radio**. While he looked down on the river, gleaming like a sword, on Westminster Hall, and the old, grey, Abbey, on the stark, simple memorial of the Cenotaph, his voice from the very centre of things, was ranging far and wide over the Globe. With the speed of thought, it was echoing clear across the world. **That stately resonance was being heard in the Bush of New Zealand, upon the highest veldt of South Africa, in the cities, and on the sheep stations of Australia, from Firth to the Darling Downs, it was crossing the Prairies of Canada and sailing over the Rockies**

until it found the isolated home-steads of British Columbia. It was going out to lonely islands, where the palm trees whistled to the Trade Winds, to the teeming crowds of India, from Cape Comorin to the Hindukush. Over sea and desert, over palm and pine. To ships sailing at sea, with the flying fish flitting across their bows in the tropics, or their rigging caked with ice in the North Atlantic. Wherever men were free this voice rang out its message of steadfast courage.

The world to-day is full of voices. The frenzied, racuous ravings of the Nazis, the lugubrious wails of Mussolini, the servile whinings of Vichy, the hissing and the gloating of Japan, but clear above them, like a tocsin, came the voice of Mr. Roosevelt explaining the Lease and Lend Bill, and all that its passing implied. A free people, after argument and discussion, had decided to become the arsenal of democracy. A free people, of their own free will, had decided to produce the weapons and material, the ships and planes, whatever was necessary to cleanse the world of the pestilence of the dictators.

Now Germany boasts that nobody will or can produce more than her. She has the whole, or very nearly the whole of Europe, working for her. As Hitler always said he would, he is using slave labour. Over 1,000,000 Poles have been wrenched from their homes, and sent to work like Serfs in the Reich, Czechs have to serve in their own factories to pour out munitions for their oppressors. Poor guileless Italians, a quarter of a million of them, peasants who once sang in the sun shine in Italy, men who could laugh, and appreciate the rich bounty of their vineyards, have now to leave their wives and families, to leave the sun, and there will be no song on their lips as they sweat and toil in the cold, grey North, in that land where there is no laughter. Like cattle, they are herded from one slave state to another. In France, to whom once the whole world looked for Freedom, the factories are busy, the wheels are turning at the bidding of the spineless leaders of Vichy in their shameful collaboration with their conquerors, on munitions and instruments of war that will be used in an attempt to crush what freedom there remains in the world. By the unscrupulous withholding of materials, by clever manipulation of employment, thousands of men in Denmark, Norway, Belgium and Holland have been forced to seek work and a livelihood in Germany. The astute peasant of France now drives his plough for worthless Nazi paper money, the hardy people of the Balkans, who always live on the verge of starvation, anyhow, are finding that even their small margin is being filched from them. **All over Europe from the North Cape to the Pyrennees, and from Brittany to the Black Sea, men have been forced to slave and starve, not for themselves, their dependents or their own countries, but for an insatiable, voracious horde. To their cost the people of Europe have discovered that a worse pestilence than the Black Death stalks the land, and that a country side**

on which the Nazis descend, is left more bare and denuded than by any swarm of locusts.

What sort of an arsenal is this then, where men toil and sweat for fear of the jackboot? Where the workers' food is taken from them to feed their masters who hold the whip? As the food gets scarcer, and the realisation of their future grows, what sort of workmanship will the Nazi get from his slaves? Whether they are Poles or Czechs, Belgians, Italians, or Germans? **It has been proved, not once, but over and over again in the history of the world, that slave labour cannot compete with free labour,** thousands under the lash raised the pyramids, but the delicate gold filigree, the exquisite works of art found in the tombs under these massive memorials, were worked by no slaves. They were produced by craftsmen who loved their work, and who could speak of it with pride to their own families.

Against the slave plantations of Nazified Europe, almost half the world is at work. New Zealand which was always been a pastoral and agricultural country, has just announced that she is starting certain war industries. Mr. Menzies the Prime Minister of Australia has told us what his country is doing, how she is building planes, and ships and guns and equipment of all kinds. Canada is building ships and planes, and she is largely equipping her own expeditionary force. The factories of India are being turned over to war production—her jute is being woven into canvas and into sand bags. She is building ships for her own efficient Royal Indian Navy. Six-inch howitzers, built in that country, will soon be adding their sullen roar to the noise of guns from Britain and the United States. She is turning out armour-plate, and it won't be long now before her tanks and armoured cars will be joining the veterans that conquered in Libya. There are plans for an output of three thousand armoured fighting vehicles in the next six months, steel, timber, anti-tank guns, chemicals and drugs, explosives and rifles, an amazing stream of necessities has started to pour out, and India, which is primarily an agricultural country in peace time, on war footing has entered upon a phase of intensive industrial activity.

The Indian army overseas, that army which fought so well in Libya, is now fighting up in the mountain fastnesses of Abyssinia, all over the Italian African Empire, in fact, that army is independent of overseas supply. If the war spreads to the Near East, this means that a ready source of supply is at hand, with only the Indian Ocean to cross, and no gauntlet of Nazi U-Boats to run. But India can produce even more than she needs herself. She can export all sorts of things, ranging from Khaki shirts to electric fans, and from fish plates to steam rollers.

In 1914 the Germans were convinced that at the first sign of trouble the Empire would break away from the mother country. With that obsession which is peculiar to

the German, they could see no other point of view but their own. They could not visualise an Empire which was not under compulsion, as it would certainly have been if it had acknowledged Berlin as its centre, instead of London. **They could not understand that peoples who are free might put loyalty and affection before advantage and comfort, before life itself, in fact.** They judged everyone else by themselves, and so they got the wrong answer. The Germans don't change much; from their propaganda since the outbreak of war, it is obvious that they expected the Empire to take their chance of leaving the mother country to her own fate. In the intervening years, the heavy, priggish mind of the Nazified German, had not learned to appreciate the subtle ties which bind the Empire together, nor had they been able to see the strength of those ties.

In 1939 Hitler's advisers were under the same delusions as the Kaiser's circle in 1914, and to-day they are getting the same answer. The men and women who are working in the workshops of the Empire, are not of one creed or colour, among them they embrace nearly all the religions of the world, and they speak nearly all its tongues. They live in different climates, under different conditions, they have their own customs and dress, their own literature and art, they aren't moulded to one cloddish pattern. **They haven't been taught fake theories of race**, or to repeat meaningless parrot cries about blood and soil. **They are actuated by something that the German will never understand**—by something which is dangerous and deadly, unclean, even, when mentioned in the rarified heights of Berchtesgaden, **by something which is feared and hated by the Nazi, by the love of Freedom.**

The German likes to be dragooned and regimented. He isn't happy unless he is wearing a uniform. He can't understand that men will sweat and toil, and deny themselves things or die, for the right to be free and to decide their own way of life. In their blindness the dictators have set the world to work—they will cure unemployment in countries outside their own. They have set the wheels of industry humming, east and west, north and south, against themselves and **now to crown all their psychological blundering the United States of America has passed the Lease and Lend Bill, and come out in no uncertaim fashion against them. The natural resources of the world are closed to the dictator countries; the finest workmen in the world are not in their countries, and they must know that this is the beginning of the end.** A time limit has been set to their arrogance, their mouthings, and their posturings. The people of the United States would not be working shoulder to shoulder with people who have been idle, the Empire to-day is one vast arsenal and training round, and at the centre of it, is Big Ben. A letter written by an Australian in New South Wales, is printed in a London newspaper this morning. This is what it said:—"I should like to say how comforting it is to me and my London born wife, to hear Big Ben chiming half across the world, in the daily broadcasts of the B. B. C. It must hearten British folk all over the Globe to hear him, and to know that he is still at his post, with the rest of the citizens."

THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OF GREECE.

by

Dora Lykiardopoulo.

(Of a family socially and politically prominent in Athens a Greek Lady now resident in India, does us the honour of contributing a special article to our bulletin.

Its sincerity and sense of history, its burning indignation and courageous idealism, are characteristic of that gallant nation now holding the mountain passes of the Balkans by the side of her British and Imperial Allies. We thank her—and them. Ed.).

FOR a Greek to write about Greece to-day is almost as hard and difficult as for a mother to start on the biography of a beloved child, while it lies ill, at grips with some horrible and possibly fatal disease.

But more than ever, the voice of Greece ought to be made heard now, when her existence is in danger, her freedom and her life most terribly threatened, and so I shall try to tell you something about my country to-day, while the silent peace of the South Indian Hills surrounds me, the unbearable peace so sharp in contrast to the torment and tempest of our hearts.

What is Greece ? Materially, almost nothing. One of the poorest and smallest nations of Europe ; a country into which the blue Mediterranean eats mercilessly, taking away. the few plains left at the feet of the ragged and rocky mountains ; a country in which from time immemorial the struggle for daily bread has been unrelenting and cruel.

But spiritually Greece has been one of the most glamorous entities in the cultural life of Europe, and to this day, her name is synonymous with a period of human history unsurpassed and unequalled.

Over 2,000 years ago, this tiny peninsula at the south-eastern corner of Europe, suddenly, miraculously became the cradle of all beauty and all perfection. When the civilisations of the East were decaying and Adolf Hitler's Nordic dream was nothing but a swamp inhabited by barbarians, Athens was building the Parthenon, children were singing Homer in the streets, and Aeschylus and Euripides and Sophocles were bringing to life the superhuman heroes of their fancies.

Then, something was born in Greece which neither time, nor invasions, nor war, nor fire could kill, the most lasting miracle of history had happened, and a force of the spirit had been created of such strength that it was and is and will always be immortal.

Since then much both good and horrible has come to pass over my country; for long and bitter periods her soul lay dormant and still, only to rise again later on, unexpectedly, triumphantly; and so through vicissitudes and trials, glories, victories and defeats, Greece reached the sinister year 1940.

She was then just emerging from one of her most exhausting efforts towards unity and reorganisation. She had just reached a stage, when having tried to settle all her accounts with her neighbours, she was asking nothing more than to be left alone; when she was trying painfully but surely to work out her own pattern of a gentle and hard-working life; when she wanted and needed nothing other than—peace; when her industries were being reorganised, her waste lands reclaimed from swamp at terrible expense of money and labour, to be changed into fertile fields, and when her unceasing struggle against poverty and unemployment was at its height. Just then, the first of the Axis partners struck. The Italian Jackal overnight descended upon what it thought was the moribund body of a nation, soon to be changed into carrion. I need not tell you with how great a disappointment the scavenging beast met. The whole world has held her breath at the inspiring episode of Greece's struggle against her shameless neighbour, the whole world has rejoiced at the sight of a small country, roused and united, changing what seemed a hopeless bravado into a magnificent practical success.

But it is one of the 'Jackal's' most sinister characteristic, he never moves alone. When Mussolini found that his 40,000,000 men were not sufficient to extinguish the flame that burnt in the hearts of 7,000,000 Greeks, he called in Hitler with his 100,000,000 Huns to aid him, and it will be one of the most indelible blots on Germany, already with so stained a history, that to that unforgivable call she responded.

Like a huge reptile, dragging its hideous form over the pride and dignity of Europe, she steadily crawled towards our frontiers. When she realised that neither threat nor intimidation could defeat the spirit of my nation, she hurled, on Palm Sunday, her engines, her bombs and her steel against the bodies of the youth of Greece. Simultaneously she vented her unholy anger on Yugoslavia, another of her small neighbours, whose only crime had been that of recovering her national dignity at the eleventh hour. Overnight the whole Balkan pensinsula was pushed into the most unspeakable horrors, and Greece and Yugoslavia entered the most ruinous hour of their history.

But they were not alone in their distress. England to whom falls to-day the unparallelled honour of being the single-handed champion of all down-trodden nations stood at their side.

History is the greatest of artists, although mostly a tragic one. To-day she has grouped together on the Hellenic mountain passes the Greeks and the British, two people so different and yet so similar. The traditions of democracy and freedom, of human dignity and kindliness, of self-sacrifice, courage, and beauty, which first flourished under the radiant Greek sky, were nowhere transplanted with more success than to the soil of the misty British Isles, and so it is good and seemly that British and Greeks should fight side by side for the common ideals and principles. Their being together vouches for their final victory, come what may in the meantime. And Herr Hitler? In the name of Aryanism and "New Europe", he is hurling his Nordic divisions against Greece, the very country who put her stamp for ever on the culture of Europe and England, the greatest Empire that ever spread that culture to the four corners of the world!

Tragic and abominable irony, unforgivable blasphemy, that must one day incur the most terrible punishment. Waiting for that day, the Greeks guard undismayed the very passes that Leonidas did 2,000 years ago. The fact that they, a handful of men, picked up the challenge of the mechanised hordes from the north, is already a maginificent victory; more tangible, more worldly rewards and successes will come later. The pillars of the Pantheon will still be looking on—filling the universe with their silent and contemplative beauty—when Hitler's glory will long ago have vanished and disintegrated into the dust and ashes it consists of.

The survival of eternal values is the only thing that matters and for those who fall while fighting for them, some one long ago wrote this:

"For a tomb, they have an altar,
For lamentation, memory,
And for pity, praise".

YUGOSLAVIA'S YOUNG KING
KING PETER AND HIS PEOPLE
EDUCATED WITH BOYS OF ALL CLASSES.

by

Robin Duff.

(*In a B. B. C. Talk*).

Robin Duff, who is well known to listeners as a war reporter, was in Yugoslavia just before the war. In fact, ***he was tutor to the children of the Royal Family****. He knows the country and its new king, who is his friend. We have asked him to recall his impressions to you.*

WHEN King Alexander was assassinated in 1934, his eldest son Peter was at school in England. He did not remain here long, but he remembers his school life here vividly. He was very shy, and he fought against shyness. But he often told me how much he enjoyed his friendships here.

He had to leave after his father's death because, according to the Yugoslav constitution, the King may not be outside his country. So he returned, to be king in name only. The country was ruled by a regency of princes, led by his cousin, Prince Paul.

The King did not make many public appearances, but he was very popular with the people, partly because of his age, but also because he always showed a very great personal interest in the people who have been prominent in his country.

He took an English tutor back to Yugoslavia with him. They became very good friends. He learnt, amongst other things, that he must get to know all classes of his people, and so at his own request, Serbian, Croatian, and Slovenian boys were chosen to work with him.

I met most of them during 1939, and they certainly were a very representative collection. The King got on with them extraordinarily well, and they all liked and respected him. They worked together and spent a good deal of the summer in camp. They used to go for long runs and bicycle rides. The King insisted that they should all become just as hardy as he was himself. Several of them were always with him.

King Peter has often been represented as a weakling. A very widely read book on Europe did a good deal to publicise this idea. It was suggested that the King spoke bad Serbian, practically no Engish, was simple minded,

and had no interest in the affairs of his country. **It's all quite untrue. His Serbian is perfect, his English is very good indeed, and he speaks fluent French and German.**

As for his mind, I've seldom come across a more active brain. Whatever happens, I believe Peter will be a king, and a good, moderate, and modern king. He's enthusiastic, tremendously interested in his own and his people's physical and social welfare, anxious to know and understand Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes alike.

And above all, he's intensely interested in everything which he believes to be his job.

At the first meeting, he gives an impression of being rather offhand and disinterested. And that I soon learnt was due to shyness. He very soon inspired trust and affection on the part of all his people. That trust will stand him in good stead now in the difficult task of learning to be king in fact as well as in name.

BATTLE OF THE "NIGHT SKIES" RAIDERS NO LONGER HAVE THEIR OWN WAY. "FIGHTERS' DELIGHT" RATHER THAN "BOMBERS' PARADISE".

By

Wing Commander L. V. Fraser.

WHEN the night fighter pilots of the R. A. F. recently shot down 19 enemy bombers on three nights, it was the most significant event of the air war since the summer before the R. A. F. had shown themselves to be "masters of the daylight skies".

It was the first blow—and no light one—of a battle which will flare up through each month with the coming of the full moon. From now on, Britain in moonlight will be less a "bombers' paradise" than a "fighters' delight".

Meanwhile R. A. F. bombers over Germany are shooting down fighters put up to intercept them. Bomber crews are not always able to watch the final destruction of a fighter when it crashes to earth, and in such cases the victims are usually claimed as "probable", but there have also been many certainties. Not only do the British bombers attack fighters with success, but the bombers sometimes meet bombers, and in these encounters the scores are on the British side.

The name "cat's eyes" has already been given to night fighter aces. Under special training which includes a special diet, for months now they have developed a visual sense in a way denied to ordinary mortals. Many of them can see clearly even without much help from the moon; indeed, in a recent combat a pilot who has already won the D. F. C. for his night fighting exploits, complained that the moon was too brilliant.

Night fighting calls for a special technique. Fast single-engined planes of comparatively short endurance depend on clear weather, in which the raider can be detected soon and sent to its doom with the same dispatch as in common day fighting. But the new twin-engined aircraft, for example, with a long endurance but also speed that can match any night raider, can afford to stalk its prey until it is almost certain that one burst of fire will destroy it.

It is not the least remarkable feature of night fighting that in most cases one burst of fire sends down the enemy in flames. Bomber crews have many fears as it is—improving anti-aircraft fire, balloon cables, vagaries of the weather and "other devices". But what are all these compared with the fire of death that comes spurting, without a second's warning, from an enemy only a hundred yards away?

AIM OF THE R. A. F.

It is the aim of the R.A.F. to make the night skies as full of peril as they have already made daylight. They will thus so reduce the number of raiders Goering dares to send over that the reduction alone will be a defeat for the *Luftwaffe*. An air force is not reckoned by its numbers on the ground but by its striking power in the skies. The much-vaunted Italian air force knows that already. It is a defeated force because it dare not risk a battle.

The best picture of the night fighters must come from the pilots themselves. Here are extracts from their reports of recent combats:—

(1) "I was patrolling the fires caused by a raider when suddenly I saw an aircraft travelling south. I got under his tail at once, identified him as a Heinkel 111, and closed in. The aircraft was well within sight, and I gave it two bursts of four seconds each. My windscreen was covered with oil and my machine enveloped in smoke, while the port engine of the Heinkel was emitting a great deal of smoke. The port undercarriage was down and appeared to be hanging loose, with the aircraft swaying about."

The pilot left the Heinkel in a hopeless state, and it crashed soon after in the Midlands.

(2) "I saw something reflecting in the moonlight below when I was about 8,000 feet over the Channel. It looked like a black spot on the sea. I dived down to see what a ship could be doing about there. When I

was down to 7,000 feet I recognised the spot as an enemy bomber making for home. I continued my dive, and my gunner gave the enemy two one-second bursts. Our bullets entered the bow of the raider, but the enemy dived and crashed into the sea. He had gone almost before I had completed my manoeuvre."

(3) "I suddenly saw a Heinkel 111 50 yards away. We opened fire and, after a burst of only one second, the raider caught fire. We gave him six more one-second bursts, and the whole machine burst into flames and plunged to earth. Pieces of it were scattered on four fields."

HOW THE VICHY ADMINISTRATION FUNCTIONS.

IS DARLAN AS DANGEROUS AS LAVAL?

DREAMS OF NAVAL ENGAGEMENT WITH BRITISH.

PÉTAIN AND HIS SYCOPHANTS.

David Scott, *News Chronicle* Lisbon Correspondent cables on March 21 a story told to him by an absolutely reliable informant who has just returned to Lisbon after a trip to Vichy and a visit to the occupied zone during which he lived for a week in Paris. This informant is quoted as saying "Darlan is just as dangerous to England now as Laval was. Since becoming Vice-Premier and Pétain's nominated successor he has allowed personal ambition to overrule all else. **He cannot simply hand over the French Fleet to Germany—first, because he has already given a written understanding not to do so, secondly, because the fleet would mutiny if he did.**

"But this proposal to run the British blockade is an indirect device, arranged with Laval on the German suggestion, for the same purpose.

"Since Dakar Darlan's great idea is that the French Fleet can beat the British Squadron in the Mediterranean. He tells everyone this. Ninety-five per cent of the French people are still pro-British and expect a British victory. But they do not want to fight themselves. They wait passively while Britain fights.

"The other five per cent are actively pro-German, preach co-operation and bank on a German victory this summer.

"Unfortunately it is these five per cent who have control.

"The change in the French people is tragic. It must be seen to be believed. Though the majority hope for a British success, they are down and out and for the time being incapable of any reaction.

"In the occupied zone the Germans have complete control, with the connivance of Laval and most of the local authorities.

"Laval recently admitted privately that popular sentiment was pro-British. 'But I don't care about that,' he said 'public opinion doesn't count here now-a-days and it will learn that in time. While the German is in France we can do what we think necessary.'

"Lately they have been shooting more people, often for trifling offences While I was in Paris a French ex-policeman crossed a street outside a marked pedestrian crossing. A German military policeman caught his arm and pushed him roughly. Without thinking, the man turned and struck the policeman. That means death. Next morning an official notice outside the Mairie announced that he had already been executed.

"Those in high places have become utterly cynical, seeking nothing but their own advantage. Pétain stands aloof, the only disinterested figure. Darlan dreams of naval victories. Other ministers think up little administrative stunts to please the 'old man'.

"The French try hard to persuade themselves that Pétain embodies the 'New France' that will somehow emerge.

"Pétain's words are law, but men almost as old though without his honesty, run the show. When Pétain seems in a bad mood, the ministers invent a new law to please him.

"Meanwhile French industry is acquired wholesale by the Germans as legal property, in return for payments made with Francs extracted from the French. France has to pay 400 million Francs daily for the cost of the German occupation. The real cost is about 125 millions. The balance is used to buy up French industry, ninety per cent of which is already working for Germany."

SPIRIT OF GERMAN TROOPS IN FRANCE.

MINOR RISINGS AMONG INVASION FORCES.

WHAT REICHSWEHR MEN TOLD AMERICAN OBSERVER.

THE *News Chronicle* publishes an article by a Special Correspondent who quotes the impressions of an American, until recently residing in Occupied France where he has a small country estate. This American began by repeating remarks which a German officer in a confidential mood addressed to a French officer. "We got here very rapidly," this officer said. "But (shaking his head in a worried way) I think we shall move even faster when we have to go."

The American gave the *News Chronicle* Correspondent remarkable information regarding the morale of the Nazi occupation trooops and of those destined to try to invade Britain in these words: "I would not go so far as to say that they suffer from disintegration, but there are evident marked signs of anxiety and considerable worry growing among them as the weeks pass. If you mix with the men and even officers, as I did, you feel that their confidence in the totalitarian régime is broken or at least very badly shaken.

NAZI BOAST.

"For instance a Nazi soldier of the invasion forces whom I met in a café the day he arrived in his new quarters boasted that the German army had the best planes in the world: 'We'll destroy England with our bombers and our army will invade Britain whenever the Fuehrer wants it.'

"We had a long talk and several drinks (these German soldiers drink heavily) and later his views were totally changed. Taking me into his confidence, and almost on the verge of crying, he said 'We'll never see our homes again. This beastly war will last ten to thirty years and we shall all be slaughtered. Then Hitler's gang will bolt and all Nazis will be massacred. Not one of them will escape. Remember what I'm telling you'.

PROPAGANDA TRACTS.

"Many people have reported to me similar expressions of feeling among the troops in Occupied France," said the American. "The soldiers in general do not understand how it is that after so many brilliant victories the war is not yet at an end. The letters they receive from home totally fail to cheer them up, although the German censors take the precaution to enclose Nazi propaganda tracts in the opened envelopes."

The American said that he learnt, on good authority, that there had been many cases of minor rebellions among the invasion troops in Brittany during invasion training.

" The morale of the men stationed in the Bay of Biscay zone, notably the Pyrenees District, was such that some time ago numerous desertions by men who slipped across into Spain were reported and troops were moved to another area.

" As to the Nazi officers, their morale is also rather shaken. I talked to many of them recently. I found no more boasting. They are very fond of a good lunch or dinner with a bottle of wine and liquor. At café time they are quite willing to talk. They are generally worried about the future. Several expressed the opinion that Germany should stop the war. One said to me: 'We lack raw materials. We want petrol very badly and now that we have America against us I think we are approaching the beginning of the end.'

" An officer of the air force speaking about the Italians, said 'These wretched macaronis are extremely good at disorganising everything. We should never have accepted them on our side.'

" Of course the attitude of the French population has counted a good deal in the gradual demoralisation of the German troops. . They never miss an opportunity. For example a French woman who had a dozen soldiers in her house told me how one evening they showed her portraits of their children.

" The good lady said to them with tears in her eyes 'How nice they are......Poor kids. I do pity you......You'll never see them again.' They all wept."

In conclusion the American informant added: "Under the terrible Nazi discipline the German troops may be able to go on for a time, but I strongly believe that the growing discouragement among them may be a factor which will hasten the end of the war."

ATTITUDE OF FRENCH IN SYRIA.

SYMPATHY FOR DE GAULLE.

Jerusalem, By mail.

A Senior French Officer, whose name and rank must be kept secret, interviewed by the "Arab-Orient" Press Agency, made some interesting statements regarding the development of the war and the attitude of the French in Syria.

"I **am convinced,**" said he, "**that the French Army stationed out of France, sooner or later, will take up arms again against the enemy. I already see them moving that way.**

"The bad and unqualified treatment of the population of Occupied France, the expulsion of people from Alsace and Lorraine, the mutilation of these two French Provinces, the systematic German acts of piracy against France, the brilliant British victories on all fronts, the future collapse of Italy, the splendid victories of Greece, the gallant attitude of Turkey, the participation of French Free Forces on the African fronts, the sympathy we feel everywhere for the Free French Movement—all these facts reinforce my conviction that the French people and army will take up the fight again."

Regarding the German and Italian Commissions sent to French overseas territories, the French Officer underlines the **complete failure of the Italian Commission in Syria and Lebanon.**

"The Germans tried, but in vain, to get a footing in the Mandated Territory. We see them entering North Africa, but we hope that the patriotism of the French residing in that part of the French Empire will prevent any German occupation.

"Regarding that part of the French Empire, sad to say, the French Army there lost the best chance to fight against the presumptuous Italians and thus to take part in the conquest of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

"Nevertheless, I am very happy to say here **that the Syrians and people of Lebanon are in sympathy with General De Gaulle** and his collaborators, Generals Catroux and De Larminat, both of them very well known in Syria and Lebanon. This feeling is very normal because these people love liberty and independence and the French Free Movement aims at liberating France and giving her back her Independence."

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period April 7—12, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

BOMBS ON BERLIN.

Britain's newest warplanes have lately been attacking Germany with bombs larger and deadlier than any ever used before, and on the night of April 9 a good many of these fell on Berlin itself. For once, the Nazis' howl of rage was so spontaneous that they forgot to make the usual pretence that no damage was done; for once, there were no "attic fires" or "bombs on open country" in the bellow that went up from Berlin on the morning after that memorable plastering. Here is a passage from the Nazi radio's account of the **raid**:

"Numbers of high-explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped on the capital of the Reich. The results of this attack provide a further example of the inhuman methods of the R. A. F. Everything of German culture and artistic light was bombed indiscriminately. The venerable State Opera House in *Unter den Linden*, the State Library, museums and many other historic buildings were damaged. One hospital received a direct hit which destroyed its research department and several laboratories...........Direct hits on dwellings caused casualties to the civilian population."

This shriek of outraged virtue comes from people who machine-gunned terrified women and children on the roads of Poland, Belgium, Holland and France, just as they are machine-gunning them in the Balkans today; who last summer laid waste the greater part of the fair city of Rotterdam, murdering between 30,000 and 40,000 civilians in a couple of hours; who have attacked every sort of dwelling in Britain, from Buckingham Palace to workmen's cottages in Wales, besides innumerable churches (more than 2,000 were listed by the Vatican radio the other day), schools, hospitals and ancient buildings infinitely lovelier and more "venerable" than anything the gloomy capital of Hitler's ape-State could boast.

WHAT THE NEUTRALS SAID.

Naturally, Goebbels' hirelings said nothing about the burning out of one of the main Berlin railway stations, nor did they mention that all the capital's fire-brigades were still struggling at noon next day to cope with the terrific destruction wrought in the Wilhelmstrasse and the surrounding area—an area crammed full of grandiose Government offices devoted to the spread of German culture and artistic light throughout Europe and (when Europe shall have been enslaved) the rest of the world.

THE "FORTRESS" OF BELGRADE.

The Nazis' lamentations over the bombing of Berlin are all the more hypocritical when read side by side with their gloatings, repeated day and night throughout the past week, over the destruction of the greater part of Belgrade. Their excuse for this latest piece of barbarity is that Belgrade was a fortress presenting a number of military targets.

The whole world knows, however, that the Yugoslav Government, some days before the Nazi invasion, had declared their capital an open town, its position on the frontier rendering it indefensible from a military point of view. Belgrade does indeed possess a "fortress"—a picturesque relic of former days, which has as much relation to the needs of modern warfare as, for instance, the Purana Qila at Delhi. Was it this ancient monument that Goering's knights of the air were aiming at, when they turned Belgrade into a smoking shambles, its streets littered with the corpses of children, women and old men?

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

LAME EXCUSES FOR AGGRESSION.

The Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of April 8 tries to prove, on the strength of what it calls "a B. B. C. announcement" and some remarks in *The Times*, that British troops were in Greece and Albania as long ago as November 1940. The truth is that, while a British garrison was sent to the island of Crete a few days after the Italian invasion of Greece (Oct. 28, 1940), a detachment of the Royal Air Force was the only British unit to go into action against the Italians. **British troops were not landed on the Greek mainland until it had become clear—from the movement of troops into Bulgaria—that Germany intended to invade Greece.** A special *communiqué* to this effect was published by the British War Office on April 6.

MORE LIES.

Although Germany's published excuse for her inexcusable assault on Greece was the landing of British troops on Greek soil, the Nazis dragged out (Hindustani, April 11) the old lie about British "deserting her allies". In this instance Dr. Goebbels has made himself ridiculous, for both the Greeks and the Yugoslavs remember well how Britain fought shoulder to shoulder with them against the same barbarous enemy in the Great War.

Before their troops had even contacted the British Imperial forces in the Balkans, German announcers were broadcasting mythical stories of New Zealanders firing on the Greeks from behind and in Hindustani, on April 11, they accused the British of blowing up a bridge, thereby forcing the Greeks to lay down their arms.

The Germans are well aware of the untruthfulness of these reports; their object in circulating them is to provoke denials which might reveal the exact whereabouts of the Imperial troops.

THE NAZI 'GOD'.

On April 7 a German broadcasting in Hindustani made this remarkable statement:—

> "It is noteworthy that the Germans were engaged in the worship of God at the time when war was declared on them by Britain".

The Anglo-French declaration of war (on Sunday, Sept. 3, 1939) was made at the very moment when German armies were marching through Poland, bombing defenceless families from their homes and machine-gunning them as they fled along the country roads. Was this being "engaged in the worship of God"?

KEREN CASUALTIES.

Quoting an article published in the *Giornale d'Italia*, Berlin (Hindustani, April 11) claimed that at least 15,000 Indian soldiers had been killed in the battle for Keren.

The total casualties suffered by all the Imperial forces in this action were 4,000, which figure includes wounded as well as killed.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

WAR FILMS

The War Information Bureau have great pleasure in announcing that with the sanction and kind assistance of the Darbar their Lecturers will shortly be able to take round with them a series of Film programmes illustrative of the War in its various aspects.

These programmes consist in part of actual cinematography in war zones by the 20th Century Fox Film Corporation, and partially of cognate Indian subjects photographed by the organisation set up for the purpose by the Government of India, through the Bombay Government. There are three separate pictures in each programme, and the Bureau feel sure that they will prove a welcome addition to the lectures, and to the Weekly Bulletin.

The War Fund Entertainments Committee have been good enough to present the Bureau with a Station-wagon in which to convey the projectors, screens and films to the lecture centres, but in order to facilitate the working of the new lecture-programme necessary to provide some sixty centres in the State with a fresh cinema-show once every month, we particularly request the public of Pudukkottai to :—

(*a*) note that the usual time of the lecture will be **6.00 p. m.** or **6.30 p. m.** (as notified).

(*b*) **be absolutely punctual** at these lectures, since the War Information Bureau van will have to serve two centres on same evening.

Practical experience proves that at least one thousand persons can see these films with comfort, so when you hear of a Lecture announced for your village,

COME.........BUT BE PUNCTUAL.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1941—

LECTURE XLI.

April	...27, Sunday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	28, Monday ...	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.		5.00 p. m.
		Semmattividuthi	...	6.00 p. m.
		Malayur	...	6.30 p. m.
	29, Tuesday ...	Andakkulam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Killanur	...	6.30 p. m.
	30, Wednesday	Karayur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Keelathaniam	...	6.30 p. m.
May	... 1, Thursday ...	Puliyur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi	...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Friday ...	Konnayur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Mela Vegupatti	...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XLII.

	3, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	4, Sunday ...	Kolavoipatti	...	6.00 p. m.
		Venkatakulam	...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Monday ...	Thiruvarangulam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Vamban	...	6.30 p. m.
	6, Tuesday ...	Melur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam	...	6.30 p. m.
	7, Wednesday	Kadayakkudi	...	6.00 p. m.
		Mirattunilai	...	6.30 p. m.
	8, Thursday ...	Vellanur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Puthambur	...	6.30 p. m.
	9, Friday ...	Odukkur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Nanguppatti	...	6.30 p. m.

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